



B A T M A N

LEGENDS OF THE
DARK KNIGHT

NO 67 JAN 95
195 UK 125 CAN 275



STATON
MITCHELL

GOING
SANE

part three de matts • staton • mitchell





JOSEPH.. THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.. WE SHOULDN'T BE WALKING HERE SO LATE AT NIGHT--

DON'T BE SILLY. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

I USED TO COME HEERE ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.. GODD HOW I LOVED THIS THEATER.

THEY USED TO SHOW NOTHING BUT GREAT OLD COMEDIES.

CHAPLIN... HEATON... LAUREL AND HARDY... THE MARK BROTHERS... JACK BENNY--!

I SAW "THE HORN BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT" AND "TO BE OR NOT TO BE" ON A DOUBLE-BILL HEERE BACK IN--

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'VE LIVED IN GOTHAM FOR LESS THAN A YEAR--

--HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE--

OH.. THAT'S RIGHT.

IT MUST BE--



JOSEPH-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT? OF COURSE. I WAS JUST.. HAVING A LITTLE FUN WITH YOU. THAT'S ALL

YOU KNOW HOW I AM, HONEY--

Coming Soon- arnie's PIZZA & PASTA

COMEDIA





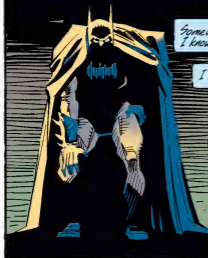
GOING SANE

Breaking the Barrier!

by j.m. De MATTEIS and joe STATON
writer penciller

steve MITCHELL inker
willie SCHUBERT letterer
digital CHAMELEON colorist

Where are
you?

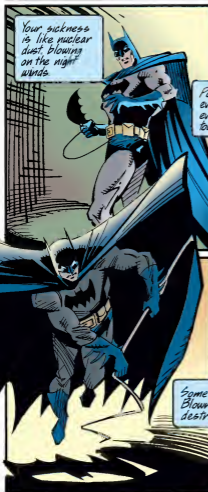


Somewhere close by.
I know it.

I can feel you.



(You killed me.)



Your sickness
is like nuclear
dust, blowing
on the night
winds.

Poisoning
everyone and
everything it
touches.



(You murdered me, you
miserable maniac!)



Some people think you're dead.
Blown to bits in the explosion that
destroyed this old theater.

(Then threw me away like a
piece of garbage.)



But, I know better.



We're on opposite sides, you
and I, but there's one thing
we have in common:

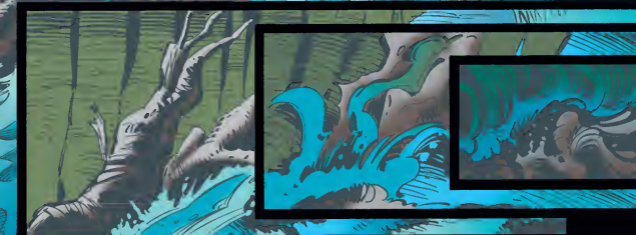


We

keep

coming

back.



WELL--

--GOOD
MORNING,
LAZARUS--

--HOW'RE
YOU FEELING?



...mmmggh...

SOUNDS
ABOUT
RIGHT.

I WOULDN'T TRY TO GET UP IF I WERE YOU. EVEN WITH THE EMERGENCY SURGERY WE DID, YOU--



TOLD YOU.



WHEN THOSE KIDS FOUND YOU DOWN BY THE RIVER, YOUR LEFT THIGH-BONE WAS SHATTERED--

--ONE OF YOUR RIBS WAS BROKEN SO BADLY IT WAS COMING UP THROUGH THE SKIN--

--AND YOU WERE SO DEEP IN SHOCK I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD AT FIRST.



PRETTY AMAZING. IF THAT RIB HAD BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE...

...IT WOULD'VE GONE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEART.

AS IT IS, IT CAME CLOSE TO PUNCTURING A LUNG.



YOU'RE LUCKY I'M SUCH A GOOD DOCTOR. SOMEBODY ELSE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PATCH YOU BACK TOGETHER.

...HOSPITAL...T

NOPE. I HAD YOU MOVED HERE TO MY HOUSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



YOU'VE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF A WEEK DRIFTING IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS. HAD QUITE A FEVER THERE FOR A WHILE.

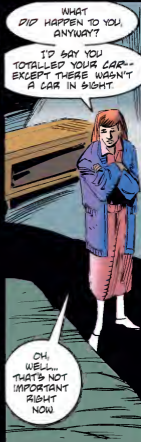
YOU'RE A REAL MYSTERY-MAN--YOU KNOW THAT?



BODY BROKEN. NO IDENTIFICATION. AND THAT WEIRD OUTFIT WE FOUND YOU IN--

OUTFIT?

WERE YOU ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM SOME KIND OF COSTUME PARTY WHEN--



WHAT DID HAPPEN TO YOU, ANYWAY?

I'D SAY YOU TOTALLED YOUR CAR-- EXCEPT THERE WASN'T A CAR IN SIGHT.

OH, WELL... THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW



I'LL BE BACK LATER WITH SOMETHING TO EAT. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU REST.

WAIT!
WH-
WHERE AM I?
WHO ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR KINDLY PHYSICIAN, DOCTOR EAGLES. DOCTOR LYNN EAGLES.



JIM.



AND THIS IS THE CHARMING LITTLE TOWN OF ACCORD--TWO HUNDRED OR SO MILES NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY. BUILT UP FROM NOTHING, I'M PROUD TO SAY, BY MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER.

IT'S QUIET HERE... MAYBE EVEN A LITTLE DULL--

BUT IT'S HOME.

You killed me, Joker. Sealed up my tomb and left me there to rot.

KSTIK



But someone rolled away the stone...

I'M BACK.

...and raised me from the dead.





No mask, no cape, no utility belt—but every day he puts himself on the line. Wades, hip-deep, into the sewage of this city and takes his stand.

Just once, I'd like to sit down with him...talk to him like a friend. Ask him about the struggles and triumphs, the dreams and tears, that shaped him.

And maybe share some of my struggles with him.

A NEW NOSE? NO PROBLEM.

But I can't, can I?

I'm the Batman. I don't struggle. I don't feel. I move through the shadows, then vanish—like morning mist—in the light of day.

If I'd stepped out of the shadows just then...if Gordon had seen the stiffness in my leg, even a hint of simple human pain in my eyes, the illusion would have been shattered. Not just for him—but for me.

HEY, I'LL DO YOUR EYES TOO FOR AN EXTRA FIVE HUNDRED.

YEAH, RIGHT. JUST MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MONEY AND--

And the next time I wade into the sewage...

...I just might sink.

HELLO?
HELLO?

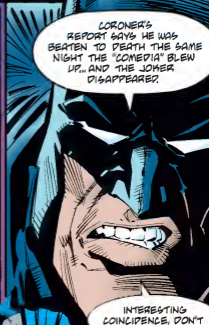
SONUVABITCH HUNG UP ON ME!

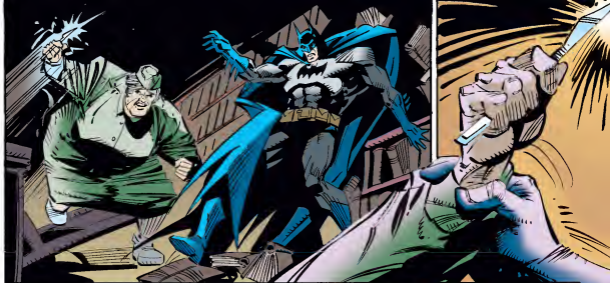
NOBODY HUNG UP ON YOU, POROTHY.

I RIPPED OUT THE PHONE WIRES.

TIME TO TALK, POROTHY.

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND'S MURDER.







--YOU
JUST
ANSWERED
ALL MY
QUESTIONS.

Everything I
need to know
was in her
eyes.



It was the
Joker.

He's walking the
streets with a
different face...a
different name.




Hiding in the
shadows like
a rat.


Like--



(Why did I come
back to Gotham?)



(Haven't I spent enough years crawling
through the sewage...fighting back
the vermin?)



(Don't I deserve a chance to come out
of the shadows, peel off the mask?
Be human?)



DON'T YOU EVER SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE--

Ah... SORRY, LYNN--
--JUST A REFLEX.

Y' KNOW, LAZARUS--

--YOU'VE BEEN HERE OVER A MONTH NOW--

--AND YOU'RE AS BIG A MYSTERY AS THE DAY YOU ARRIVED.

THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

YOU SAVE MY LIFE... TAKE ME INTO YOUR HOME... USE YOUR FAMILY'S INFLUENCE TO KEEP THE LOCALS FROM ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT ME.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. FOR ALL YOU KNOW I COULD BE AN ESCAPED SERIAL KILLER!

I MAY BE A WOMAN OF SCIENCE, LAZARUS-- BUT I LIVE BY MY INTUITION. IT HASN'T FAILED ME YET--

--AND I KNOW IT'S NOT FAILING ME NOW!

"THIS TOWN-- I NEVER KNEW LIFE COULD BE SO GENTLE, SO SWEET. THIS HUNT, BEFORE PALLA, LESARU, PEOPLE STRUGGLE AND SUFFER HERE LIKE ANYWHERE ELSE."

"BUT IT'S DIFFERENT. NOT LIKE-- THE PLACE I'M FROM." WAS IT THAT BAD? NO, IT WAS WORSE."

"TELL ME ABOUT IT." "I LIVED WITH SHORRA LYNN, AND DEMONS, I THINK I WAS ON MY WAY TO BECOMING ONE OF THE DEMONS MYSELF. IT'S END, THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE."

"LIVE IN HELL LONG ENOUGH-- AND EVENTUALLY EVEN AN ANGEL WILL STRAIGHTEN YOURS AND A TAIL, AND BELIEVE ME... I WAS NO ANGEL."

"CAN WE STOP NOW? I'M SO TIRED!" "NOPE, WE'VE GOTTA MEEP GOING SET YOU BACK TO YOUR OLD SELF!" "I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY OLD SELF!"

"-- THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME TO CREATE A NEW ONE." "MAYBE IT IS."

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I HATED GROWING UP HERE." "REALLY WHY?" "I THOUGHT ACCORD WAS OLD-FASHIONER INVESTIGATOR. I WANTED TO RUN AWAY TO THE BIG CITY." "SO WHAT?"

"YEP, DID IT, TOO. MOVED THERE WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN." "WHAT HAPPENED?" "IT ONLY LASTED A FEW MONTHS, ENDED UP GOING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL-- LIKE MY DAD-- AND THEN COMING HOME."

"MY FATHER WAS A DOCTOR." "REALLY? WHAT WAS HE LIKE?" "OBEYANT, COMPASSIONATE, A REAL HEALER. ALL I WANTED WAS TO GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE HIM." "AND DID YOU?" "NO--"

"-- I BECAME EVERYTHING HE HATED."

"LYNN-- ALL THESE MONTHS I'VE BEEN HERE: WHY DON'T YOU EVER ASK?" "ASK WHAT?" "ABOUT THE NIGHT YOU FOUND ME. ABOUT THE TRUTH." "WHY SHOULD I?" "WHY SHOULDN'T YOU?" "BECAUSE IF I ANSWER, YOU'D HAVE TO ANSWER, AND ONCE YOU DID--"



"--YOU'D LEAVE."

Two weeks since I've been back...and my body's still betraying me...the Joker's still eluding me.



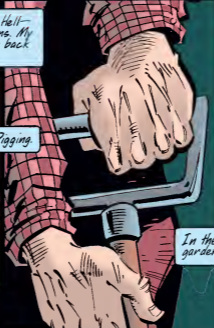
I'd give anything to be back in Accord with Lynn. A quiet day. Sun on my back. Digging in the garden.



(Dig.)

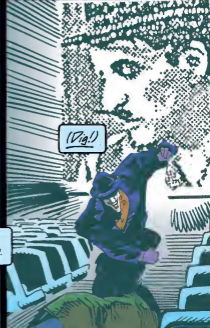


But instead I'm here in Hell—running with the demons. My tail and horns growing back with alarming speed.



Digging.

In the garden.



(Dig!)

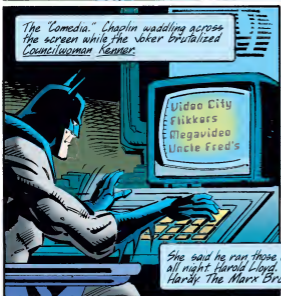




Of

course!

The "Comedia." Chaplin waddling across the screen while the Joker brutalized Councilwoman Kemmer.



She said he ran those old films all night Harold Lloyd, Laurel and Hardy, The Marx Brothers.



He's obsessed with the comedians of the twenties, thirties and forties. And wherever he is out there—

Laurel
Ethel
John
Cyril
Lillian
Norman

—he's still going to need his fix.

Mitchell Rose
Phyllis Fillmore
Joseph Kerr
Eruch Adams
Adam Marks
Cassie Bills

Run a check on rental patterns at video stores
Mail order houses that cater to old movies,
vintage radio shows

Cross-reference--searching for common names that have appeared in, say the past six or seven months and—

Mitchell Rose
Phyllis Fillmore
Joseph Kerr
Eruch Adams
Adam Marks
Cassie Bills

Joseph Kerr

Joe Kerr

Jo Ker

Joker

Joker

KKKRASH



How could you be
so stupid, Joker?
So obvious.

Why couldn't you
have hidden your-
self away a little
more cleverly?



I've got you now, you grinning lunatic. Heaven help me--



--I've got you now.



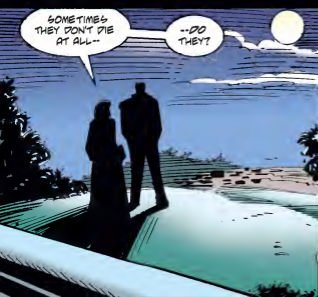
IT'S FOUR IN THE MORNING--



--SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN BED?

SOMETHING IN THE AIR TONIGHT. I DON'T KNOW.

I USED TO BE QUITE A NIGHT OWL. OLD HABITS DIE HARD, I GUESS.



SOMETIMES THEY DON'T DIE AT ALL--

--DO THEY?



WHAT?



TO THE PEOPLE UP HERE... GOTHAM MIGHT AS WELL BE A MILLION MILES AWAY--

--AS EXOTIC... AS IRRELEVANT... AS SINGAPORE OR BOMBAY.

BUT I TOLD YOU-- I LIVED THERE.

AND YOU HATED IT.

NO LAZARUS, MY SWEET FRIEND. NO. I LOVED IT.

YOU--?



I LOVED THE ENERGY, THE PEOPLE, THE BOOKSTORES, THE MUSIC, THE ART GALLERIES.

THAT CITY... IT WAS EVERYTHING I'D DREAMED ABOUT WHEN I WAS A GIRL. IT WAS MAGIC.

GOTHAM?

THEN--WHY DID YOU LEAVE?



...ONE NIGHT...

ONE NIGHT... I CAME HOME... AND THERE WAS A MAN IN MY APARTMENT. HE HAD A GUN. I FOUGHT THAT FILTHY ANIMAL WITH EVERYTHING I HAD BUT... HE RAPED ME.

HE RAPED ME!

IT WAS LIKE... LIKE ALL THE PIECES OF MY LIFE JUST FLEW APART. LIKE I WAS FALLING THROUGH DARKNESS... NO WALLS, NO FLOORS... JUST--

--CHAOS.



AFTER THAT... AFTER THAT I RAN. BACK HOME. TO HEAL.

HELL, THE TRUTH IS YOU NEVER COMPLETELY HEAL FROM A WOUND LIKE THAT. YOU JUST LIVE WITH YOUR SCARS--

--AND MOVE ON.


LYNN, I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.



DON'T SAY ANYTHING. JUST LISTEN.

IT TOOK ME YEARS TO FIND THE COURAGE TO GO BACK TO GOTHAM. BUT I FINALLY DID GO BACK. SPENT A LAZY AFTERNOON DOING THE MUSEUMS. SAW A WONDERFUL MUSICAL.

BUT ON THE WAY TO MY HOTEL, I TOOK A WRONG TURN ON A DARK STREET. YOU CAN GUESS THE REST.




ANOTHER MAN IN THE SHADOWS. A KNIFE THIS TIME INSTEAD OF A GUN.



HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME. I COULD SEE IT ON HIS FACE AND YOU KNOW WHAT? AFTER ALL I'D BEEN THROUGH--

--I DIDN'T CARE ANYMORE.



THEN SOMEONE ELSE CAME OUT OF THE SHADOWS. BIG. UNBELIEVABLY FAST. IN THE DARK... THROUGH MY FEAR... ALL I COULD SEE WERE THESE EYES-- WIDE WHITE EYES--

--AND SOMETHING ON HIS CHEST. A SYMBOL. A...BAT.

HE MADE SHORT WORK OF MY ATTACHER. AND NONE TOO GENTLY. I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF HIM, TOO.




CRAZY-MAN IN A HALLOWEEN COSTUME.



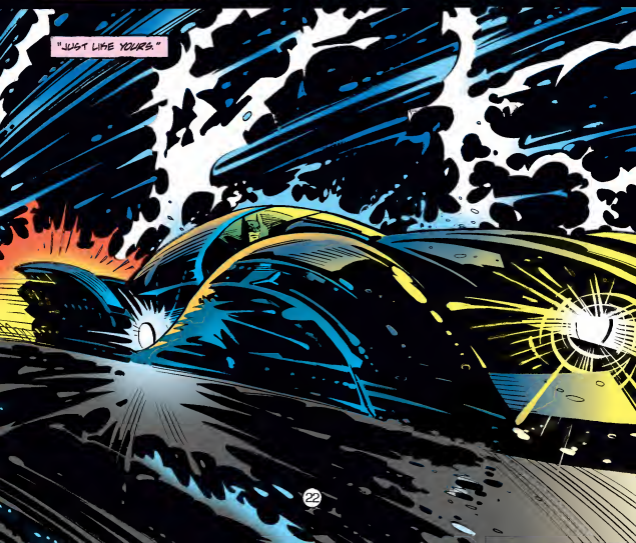
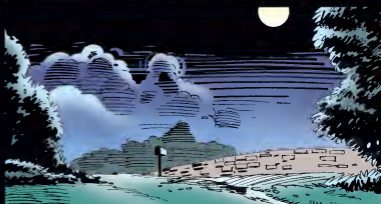
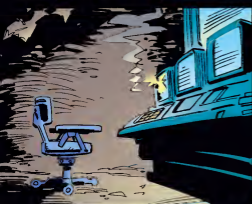
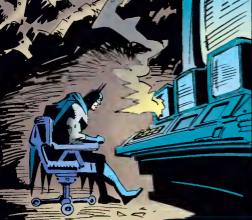
BUT HE COMFORTED ME, LAZARUS.

HE HELD ME, WEEPING, IN HIS ARMS TILL THE POLICE CAME.



AND I KNEW THEN, WITH ALL MY HEART, THAT THIS WASN'T A CRAZY-MAN. HE WAS DECENT. COMPASSIONATE.

IN HIS OWN ODD WAY, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE WAS A HEALER. JUST LIKE MY FATHER.



"JUST LIKE YOURS."



Joseph Kerr



Moved to Gotham Heights a week or so after the "Comedia" went up. References questionable. Background vague, at best.



He's certainly got the right facial structure, but —

The eyes.



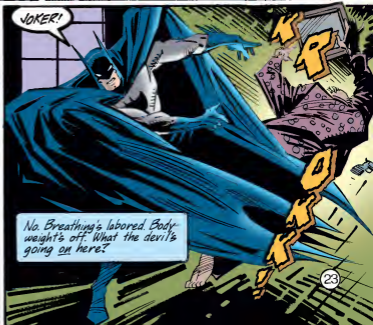
The eyes are wrong!



Too kind, too —

KERR

—SAME.



JOKER!

No. Breathing's labored. Body weight's off. What the devil's going on here?



Y-YOU'RE HIM! YOU'RE THE BATMAN!

OH, GEEZ-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOMETHIN' GORDON AND THE COPS MADE UP TO --

WHO ARE YOU?

M-- MIKEY SANSONIA. I'M THE SUPER. LIVE DOWNSTAIRS.



I HEARD SOMEONE WALKIN' AROUND HERE IN THE APARTMENT. WITH JOSEPH AND REBECCA OUTTA TOWN. I FIGURED I BETTER--

JOSEPH-- AND REBECCA..?

YEAH. SWEETEST COUPLE YOU'D EVER WANNA MEET. THEY WENT ON VACATION A COUPLE O' WEEKS AGO.



WHERE?

PENNSYLVANIA, I THINK. OH, I WAS REALLY EXCITED FOR EM, Y'KNOW? THEY'RE GETTIN'--

--MARRIED..



Logic's a tool I can't do without--but it's worthless if it's not balanced by intuition. I've been swimming through the sewage long enough to know when the rats are nearby.

And they weren't in that apartment.

The love in that place was as palpable as the Joker's insanity.



Joseph Kerr. Joker. It could be some wild coincidence--but I'm betting Joker planted Kerr's name for me to find.

A perfect way to send me on a wild goose chase--and disrupt the lives of two good and decent people.



That's what you do--isn't it lunatic? See kindness and spit on it. See love and grind it under your heel. No rhyme to it. No reason. You're just falling through darkness--

--and you want to take us all down with you.



Last time we met, you almost took me.

This time I'm dragging you up--

-into the light.



**GOING
SANE**
*concludes
next issue!*

MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD
VOLS. 1 & 2



JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
DARK VICTORY



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB
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BATMAN:
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

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